



23312.1001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Robert M. Ford**Serial No.:** 09/330,446**Filed:** June 11, 1999**Title:** SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING TIER-PRICED
COMMODITIES TRANSACTIONS**Art Unit:** 2163**Examiner:** DIAZ, S.

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In an Office Action dated October 29, 2003, the Examiner required restriction between the claims of Invention I, described by the Examiner as being drawn to a seller pricing and selling a commodity and insurance instrument to a customer (Claims 1-4, 7-14, 16-18, 20-35, and 39-50) and the claims of Invention II, described by the Examiner as being drawn to the seller of a commodity and insurance instrument accepting bids from various bidders interested in purchasing the commodity and insurance instrument (Claims 15, 19, and 36-38). The Examiner is thanked for discussing the Restriction Requirement with the undersigned attorney on November 20, 2003.

The Applicant elects the claims of Invention II, with traverse.

The Examiner alleged that the Inventions of Invention I and Invention II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination, that are separately usable.